

# Sanpete County Economic Events

***Updated 8/17/06***

A Midvale firm has won the contract to construct a \$2.4-million structure on the Gunnison Valley Hospital campus that will house a new clinic, home health services and human resources. The hospital governing board awarded the contract for \$2,425,300 to Control, Inc. on July 27 after reviewing bids submitted by seven general contractors. Control, Inc. was the low bidder with the least number of days to complete the project—210 days. Assuming the project proceeds as planned, the facility should be completed by the first part of February 2007. The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$3.3 million.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news8-16-06\\_7.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news8-16-06_7.html)

The \$5 million Ephraim Canyon Road project is nearly finished. Brown Brothers Construction of Loa expects to wrap up its work in August. The county itself still faces the task of graveling the final 6 miles of the 12-mile road, which runs from the mouth of Ephraim Canyon to Skyline Drive. The project took two years longer than hoped, had to be scaled back because of rising costs, and ran into problems ranging from citizen opposition to landslides.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news8-2-06\\_2.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news8-2-06_2.html)

Satterwhite Log Homes has opened a sales office at its lumber mill in Gunnison. Based in Longview, Texas, the company mills house logs from standing dead timber.

[http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci\\_3974802](http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_3974802)

After four years of delays and unforeseen complications, the Gunnison City Riverwalk project is slated to begin. In a special meeting, the Gunnison City Council awarded the project to Harward and Rees of Loa, after the Utah Transportation Commission approved \$220,000 more for the project at its June 14 meeting. UDOT had authorized \$105,000 more for the project in February, but after bids came in high, the project needed still another \$115,000. The commission finalized both amounts at their June 14 meeting.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news6-21-06\\_3.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news6-21-06_3.html)

Sanpete County commissioners have approved the construction of a \$5 million county courthouse, which, commissioners say, should cost Sanpete County absolutely nothing. The county will receive a revenue bond from Wells Fargo Bank to build the structure. The Utah Court Administrator's Office will lease the building, and the money from the lease will pay off the bond. Sanpete County will not be responsible to pay for the maintenance costs of the building. The only direct cost to Sanpete will be land, already county-owned, that the county will provide. The site is just east of the new swimming pool in Manti. The building will be two stories and 22,000 square feet. It will house two judges with two courtrooms, both district and juvenile, with a handful of lawyer and clerk offices. [http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news5-31-06\\_1.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news5-31-06_1.html)

Taxpayers living in Juab and Sanpete, adjoining central Utah counties, listed an average of 2.90 exemptions per federal income tax return filed in 2004—the largest number among more than 3,000 counties nationwide, according to an analysis of Internal Revenue Service data by Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Millard County slipped to No. 3 behind Juab and Sanpete for the first time in more than a decade, averaging 2.88 exemptions claimed per federal tax return filed. At No. 8 nationally, Utah County was the state's next highest-ranking county with an average of 2.83 exemptions.

[http://www.sltrib.com/ci\\_3867067](http://www.sltrib.com/ci_3867067)

Ten Utah communities will share a \$10-million federal grant to help fund the renovation or construction of facilities for wastewater treatment or drinking water, environmental restoration and surface resource protection. The funding comes through a program written by Utah Republican Sen. Bob Bennett in 2003 to help small communities pay for expensive water and wastewater projects. Communities receiving the grants are: Logan, \$4.26 million; Cedar City, \$1.71 million; Blanding, \$1.32 million; Park City, \$600,000; Kane County, \$550,000; Mantua, \$465,000; Moroni, \$352,000; Uintah County, \$307,000; Snyderville, \$222,000; and Richmond, \$27,000.

[http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci\\_3797041](http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_3797041)

Gunnison Valley Hospital has received approval for the proposed expansion of facilities from Gunnison City. At a Gunnison Valley Hospital board meeting, hospital administrator Greg Rosenvall announced that Gunnison City had given final approval for the expansion and construction of new hospital facilities at 81 E. 100 North, across the street from the existing hospital. All requirements requested by the planning and zoning commission and the city council have been met, and groundbreaking and construction of the 10,500-square-foot facility will begin toward the end of June, at a cost of \$2.6 million.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news5-3-06\\_7.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news5-3-06_7.html)

Sanpete County officials are pushing for a new, \$12-million, 128-bed facility to replace their 44-bed building. The new jail would be able to house more local inmates long term and could house about 50 state inmates. The sheriff's office said it would hire up to 30 new deputies to work in the new jail. The county is working to come up with the money. County leaders are planning for a \$4-million general obligation bond election in June.

[http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci\\_3748481](http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_3748481)

Committee members, the mayor and city council, and equally important, local children who might be the ultimate beneficiaries, gathered last week to break ground for the \$1.5-million Manti Aquatics Center. The facility will be located on what is now a parking lot between Manti High School and the Sanpete County Fair Exhibit Building. Contractors are scheduled to start digging the real hole within two weeks, weather permitting. During a program prior to the groundbreaking on Tuesday, April 4, speakers tipped their hats to the community for donating \$500,000 to the effort.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news4-12-06\\_1.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news4-12-06_1.html)

The Gunnison River Walk project is finally ready to move forward after nearly two months worth of unexpected delays. The project was scheduled to go out for bid in February. It is now going through the stages of final approval at the state level and the project will be going out for bid on April 15. Increased construction costs, specifically higher costs for concrete and asphalt due to Hurricane Katrina, are largely to blame for the delay. The project is being funded through a UDOT Enhancement Grant, which requires a 20-percent local match. UDOT added \$105,000 to the project, which brings the total amount of federal grant monies to \$532,800.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news4-12-06\\_5.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news4-12-06_5.html)

The Gunnison City Council has approved the sale of more than \$900,000 in bonds for past and present water projects. The sale includes financing for two different projects: a pressurized irrigation project from 2003 and the present expansion of the city's culinary water system by piping water from Peacock Springs southeast of Sterling. The new bond combines the outstanding debt from the 2003 project of \$456,000 and funds \$490,000 more for the Peacock Springs project. The money for the Peacock Springs project will be used to purchase and lay nearly 20,000 feet of pipe. Once the project is completed, the water may be used to bolster the city's culinary water needs, or can be turned into the irrigation system if culinary water demands are low. The sale of the bonds for the Peacock Springs project has been on hold since October 2005 because cost increases in materials, particularly PVC pipe, made the project financially unfeasible.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news4-12-06\\_6.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news4-12-06_6.html)

After a lot of speculation, the question of whether or not there is oil in Sanpete has been answered: "Yes," says Kimball Hodges, executive vice president of Liberty Pioneer Energy Source, the company that has drilled two wells south of Wales. "Yes," Hodges says, "but we don't know if we can get it out." On Thursday, March 16, Hodges met with a group of Sanpete business people at a meeting of the Ephraim Chamber of Commerce. The wells are shallow, only to about 5,000 feet (as opposed to the 7,000-8,000 feet of Wolverine's wells, and the 12,000-15,000 feet other wells in Sanpete could reach if and when they are drilled). In at least one of them, though, Hodges said, there were oil shows the entire way from 2,300-4,000 feet. He cautioned, though, that it's still too preliminary to start shouting "eureka," partly because the presence of a significant amount of salt in the samples makes the find difficult to analyze.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-29-06\\_2.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-29-06_2.html)

The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration announced grants for Utah economic development planning efforts. The investments include \$51,000 each to the Five County Association of Governments, headquartered in St. George; the Six County Economic Development District, headquartered in Richfield; and the Southeastern Utah Economic Development District of Price to continue comprehensive economic development planning programs.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635194286,00.html>

As indicated it might do last year when it approved a 288-bed expansion at the Central Utah Correctional Facility, the Legislature this year approved another 192-bed expansion at the Gunnison prison. The \$20-million expansion is designated as a secure-unit facility, meaning it is more like traditional incarceration cells than was the 288-bed dormitory-style expansion. According to the Utah Department of Corrections, construction is projected to start in August or September this year, and should be completed a little more than a year later. In addition to providing space for more inmates, the expansion should provide around 60 new, permanent jobs at the facility.  
[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-8-06\\_1.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-8-06_1.html)

The success of visiting specialists from the Provo based Central Utah Clinic has prompted Gunnison Valley Hospital officials to build a new clinic that will expand the hospital's ability to provide specialty care locally. The new facility will occupy property from about 51-81 East along 100 North, across the street from the hospital. Two homes sit on property that will be occupied by the clinic, but the hospital owns the property and will remove the homes to make way for the facility. The new clinic is expected to cost around \$2 million. Oncology, orthopedic and cardiology specialists from Central Utah Clinic will occupy the entire west wing of the 9,000-square-foot facility.  
[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-8-06\\_3.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-8-06_3.html)

The Utah National Parks Council of the Boy Scouts of America is launching a \$2 million project to transform the Mountain Dell Scout Camp 10 miles east of Mt. Pleasant into one of the largest and best scout camps in Utah, scout officials say. The turning point in the project has been a \$1-million donation from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.  
[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-1-06\\_1.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news3-1-06_1.html)

Plans for a multipurpose indoor arena and equestrian center were set in motion Feb. 14 as the Mt. Pleasant Redevelopment Agency (RDA) voted unanimously to donate 55 acres on the north side of the Mt. Pleasant industrial park for the project. Earlier, the Mt. Pleasant Main Street Committee, which serves as an advisory panel to the RDA, reviewed and endorsed the plan. The Sanpete County Department of Economic Development and Travel is also backing the proposal. The multiphase plan calls for an indoor arena, two outdoor arenas, covered stalls, trailer parking, an RV park, a multipurpose building with showers, a play area, tent area, and possibly, a swimming pool.  
[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news2-22-06\\_3.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news2-22-06_3.html)

The Manti City Council is considering a sale of land that could lead to a significant residential development on the north end of the city. Real estate agent Linda Nielsen, along with developer Dewey Cammack of Zion Peak Holdings from Cedar City, has approached the council regarding the purchase of city property behind the Manti Temple. Cammack developed an area of homes in Cedar City named West Hill and is interested in bringing a similar project to Manti.  
[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news2-8-06\\_2.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news2-8-06_2.html)

A plan to replace a major portion of Gunnison's culinary water system is on hold until prices fall back in line with previous estimates. Earlier this year the city was looking at bonding to fund the replacement of about 20,000 feet of pipe between one of the city's water sources, Peacock Springs south of Sterling, and the city's north storage tank. But after increases in the cost of pipe pushed the price of the project out of reach, the city council decided to not move forward with the bond until costs came back down.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news1207\\_5.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news1207_5.html)

A state panel has given Sanpete a big boost in becoming the main resource center for agricultural-related businesses throughout Utah. A \$50,000 boost, to be exact. On Nov. 18, the Governor's Office of Economic Development Board approved dispersing that amount to Sanpete County for the startup of an agribusiness resource center.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news1123\\_1.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news1123_1.html)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has rescued plans for a new \$900,000 Head Start school in northern Sanpete County. The USDA's Rural Development office has agreed to lend \$300,000 to Salt Lake City-based Centro de la Familia so it can build the school. The nonprofit group had previously secured \$600,000 in financing through Zions Bank, but struggled to find the remainder. The agriculture department also guaranteed the loan from the bank. The loan and guarantee, which a USDA official described as similar to mortgage insurance, will help Centro de la Familia clear the last hurdle in its almost two-year effort to get the new school for Head Start classes up and running. When completed, the 10,000-square-foot building on the southern edge of Mount Pleasant will replace two rented buildings that house a school-readiness program for children from low-income families. The new building will have five classrooms, two meeting rooms and three offices, said Pete Cannon, transportation and facilities manager for Centro de la Familia, which oversees Head Start programs in Sanpete County. In addition to the Mount Pleasant school, there is a Head Start program in Gunnison.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635164638,00.html>

Sanpete County commissioners are giving their support to an idea for a bike path between Manti and the Pigeon Hollow junction. Several bicycling enthusiasts met with the county commission this month to explain the proposal to create the path and to seek the county's support to do so, particularly when it comes to applying for funding.

[http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci\\_3250557](http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_3250557)

Six rural counties will receive funding under a new program to help disadvantaged rural communities. The Governor's Office of Economic Development Board approved funding for half of the applicants in the Business Development for Disadvantaged Rural Communities Grant Program. The Utah Legislature created the program and appropriated \$250,000 for the current fiscal year. Sanpete County was awarded \$50,000 for a business resource/agribusiness center.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635162378,00.html>

Ephraim residents want to keep their city library and, according to the results of this week's bond election, are willing to pay to do so. Faced with the question, "Shall the

City of Ephraim ... be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds ... in an amount not to exceed ... \$750,000 ... for the purpose of renovating and improving the library,” Ephraim voters said “yes” by nearly a four-to-one margin.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news119\\_5.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news119_5.html)

The Mt. Pleasant City Council approved last week a land development proposal that is expected to lead to a Family Dollar store being built on the south end of town. Following a public hearing held Oct. 25, the council approved the proposal, which has engendered controversy because of concern that the plan would harm the city’s downtown businesses. The proposal calls for an expansion of Terrel’s grocery store, including a drive-thru pharmacy, and the construction of two other buildings that would house Cavalier Pizza and Family Dollar.

[http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news112\\_2.html](http://www.sanpetemessenger.com/news112_2.html)